

BUPRESTIS

A semi-annual newsletter devoted to the dissemination of information about buprestids and students of this group

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Dear friends,

Each time I think to have finished BUPRESTIS there is a new „latest letter“ or I find a paper which should be added to the publication list. So time goes by and I am always too late. Believe me, I am trying to do my best and to serve you as actual as possible.

Please try to support Chuck Bellamy as well as me with your reprints. He is doing most of the new World Catalogue and it can be only as good as you assist with your papers, knowledge or material.

The new deadline for the next issue of BUPRESTIS will be 15.December 1997.

Best wishes

Hans Mühle
Editor

A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Shelley **Barker** retired from the University of Adelaide and is now installed at the South Australian Museum. His first task has been to organise the Cisseis collection. He has also most of the Cisseis collection of ANIC, Canberra and is working now on this material. The first thing he found is that the genus is much larger than he suspected. The last revision of Cisseis was published by H. J. Carter in 1923 and the work is not without its problems.

The work towards the revision of Castiarina is proceeding slowly. He had already a completed final draft of the text but the illustrations are still unfinished.

B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

D. FORUM

Chuck **Bellamy** has sent the following thoughts:

Thoughts from the catalogue:

Friends, the catalogue continues to grow as does as the amount of support from others. I have received substantial contributions from Svata BÍLÝ who sent the electronic version of his world *Anthaxia* catalogue, from Mark VOLKOVITSH who continues to support me with information on the Russian literature, the Old World Acmaeoderini and other little chores, Bill BARR, Rick WESTCOTT and Gayle NELSON forward by e-mail and photocopy various more obscure, little references and notes that I can't „see“ from here. My visit to London last December allowed me to find or confirm certain lost or incomplete citations and both prior to and following that visit, Lorna MITCHELL of the Entomology library, The Natural History Museum has been a formidable assistant, often looking up 10 or 15 references for me a week. The catalogue continues to be dynamic, taxa shifted as new works appear, most recently the addition of the new tribe for *Paratassa*. Where and when will it all end? Perhaps never as the publisher has committed me to producing annual updates and I'm sure after the first edition there will be enough squawler about errors of commission and omission that I'll be busy for another year just making those corrections. Unfortunately you from Europe, it is the Palaearctic fauna that worries me the most. The difference of opinions about what is a valid species and what is the synonym of what expressed by different authors is enough to drive me to study tube worms or marmosets. Just the differences between the perceptions of the western European **Agrilus** fauna between OBENBERGER's catalogue and THÉRY's Fauna de France makes me want to stop, but now there is just too much time invested.

So here I try again to make an honest plea to those of you who send their papers to Hans for inclusion in the biannual newsletter; please send me copies too. Even though Hans has been kind enough to expand those citations to contain full journal titles, I can't very well list the taxa that your papers discuss if I can't read them. I have written to many of you, but only a few were gracious enough to reply: GUTOWSKI, TASSI, TEZCAN, many thanks! What about some of you others: GOBBI, MAGNANI, why can't you send me your papers?

Mexican Buprestidae Series

A new monograph series The Buprestidae of Mexico is announced. This series will be coordinated by Henry HESPENHEIDE and Chuck BELLAMY with potential contribution from Rick WESTCOTT, Svata BÍLÝ, Gayle NELSON, Ted MACRAE and others. We request that you consider making your specimens and records available to whichever colleague will be working up the particular genera or higher levels.

Tree of Life Project

An ambitious Internet project hoping to eventually capture data on the entire phylogeny of life, has recently posted the introductory Buprestoidea page by Chuck BELLAMY. For those with connections to the Internet, this can be found at the following address:

<http://phylogeny.arizona.edu/tree/eukaryotes/animals/arthropoda/hexapoda/coleoptera/buprestoidea/buprestoidea.html>

A number of new buprestid things are available via the Internet pages of the Transvaal Museum:

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za> (museum web pages)

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/coleop.htm> (Coleopt. Dept.)

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/biodlist/biodlist.htm> (Faunal Diversity Project)

<http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/~lorquin/evans/> (An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles)

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/coleop.htm>

The Mexican Buprestidae Monograph:

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/mexbups.htm>

The Madagascan Coraebini:

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/madbups.htm>

A new email discussion group to focus on buprestids is now available for anyone able to connect via email.

Please send a message to the following email address:

buprestis@tm.up.ac.za

type the word "subscribe" in the subject line

You will receive a welcome message and you will be able to discuss any aspect of your interests in buprestids with what we hope will be an ever-expanding group!

A new Internet buprestid page has been started and can be found at: <http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bups.htm>

Many of the reference files for the world catalogue can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/catrefs/catref.htm>

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/worldcat.htm>

Buprestidae Home Page - Internet

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bups.htm>

I have now added an updated catalogue of higher taxa on the web pages:

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/Catrefs/highclas.htm>

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Svata Bílý sent us the story of his collecting trip to Indonesia:

On January and February 1997 we visited the Manusela National Park on Seram (Maluku Isl., Indonesia). We were four friends and we started in Ambon which is the hub for this part of Indonesia. The Ambon island is completely damaged by agriculture and it is also overpopulated. The next island, Seram, which has no good port and no airstrip is really a tropical pearl. Namely the eastern part with mountains over 3000 m is well-preserved and completely covered with primary forests. Manusela National Park is well run and I have never seen so well-preserved lowland forests in SE Asia. Of course, you need the permission from Ambon for visiting the Park and you have to hire porters and a guide. Without them you cannot do anything. The trip from Ambon to Waihai (the largest settlement in the Park) is not so easy. You must use the „regular“ bus line

and ferry to Soleman and then continue by small boat to Wahai. Travelling by small bus across the main mountain range in the middle of rain season was more than dramatic. Thanks to our guide and porters we reached the small village Solea within one day (only 12 km from Wahai). They had to cut the way by their machetes and we had to cross a lot of streams and marches, covered with mud and clouds of mosquitoes. In Solea we spent three weeks (200 m above sea level) and collected in the large ring around the village and on the banks of breathtaking beautiful river Teluarang. Each day we observed thousands of parakeets (*Cacatua mulocensis*, *Loricella domicillus* and many others), met kuskus, bandicoots and casuaries, and, of course, collected beetles. Without a permission collecting is rather dangerous so we had to pay also for the close eyes of our guides. Unfortunately in the middle of the rain season insect life is fairly poor. Nevertheless we collected about 25 species of Buprestidae (some of them with the larvae), many cerambycids, curculionids, carabids, scarabaeids, etc. On each step we found larvae of beetles in the wood. In the beginning of the monsoon this place must be really the entomological paradise.

Unfortunately we were not able to climb the high mountains, covered with beautiful rain forest. During rain season this is practically impossible and some of us had great health problems too. Each small injury must be immediately treated with antibiotics to prevent heavy complications (you simply cannot avoid injuries from spines of rattan palm and other spiny plants when you collect in these places). For Europeans the climate here is very dangerous and every day we fought with moulds, ulcerous injuries, fleas, phlebotomies, mosquitoes. In whatever way our stay here was dangerous and difficult, we saw one of the most beautiful and well-preserved lowland forests in SE Asia. On the other hand it was the most dangerous and hardest trip in my life, but also one of the most beautiful.

Now I have started labelling specimens and till the end of this year I would like to publish the first results (e.g. the new species of *Anocisseis* with the description of its larva).

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Maurizio **Gigli** wrote me that is going to complete his Internet home page and he wants to serve you and other interested colleagues with BUPRESTIS and your addresses. His e-mail address is: m.gigli.bup@iol.it.

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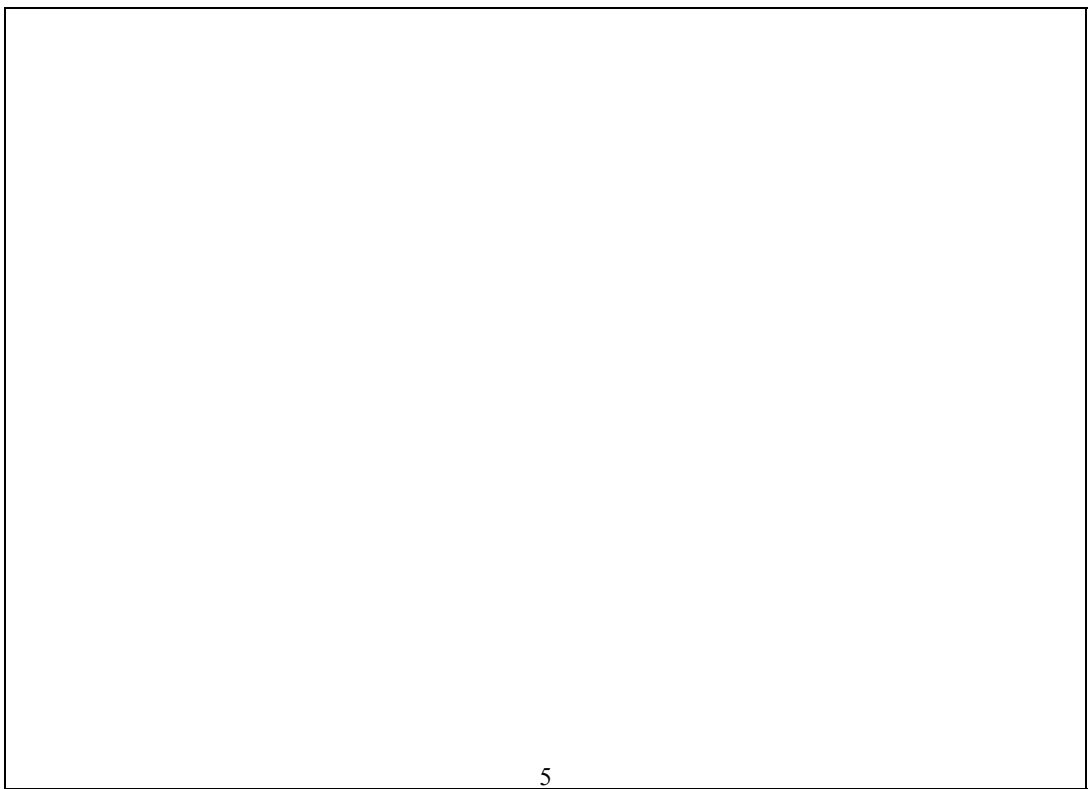
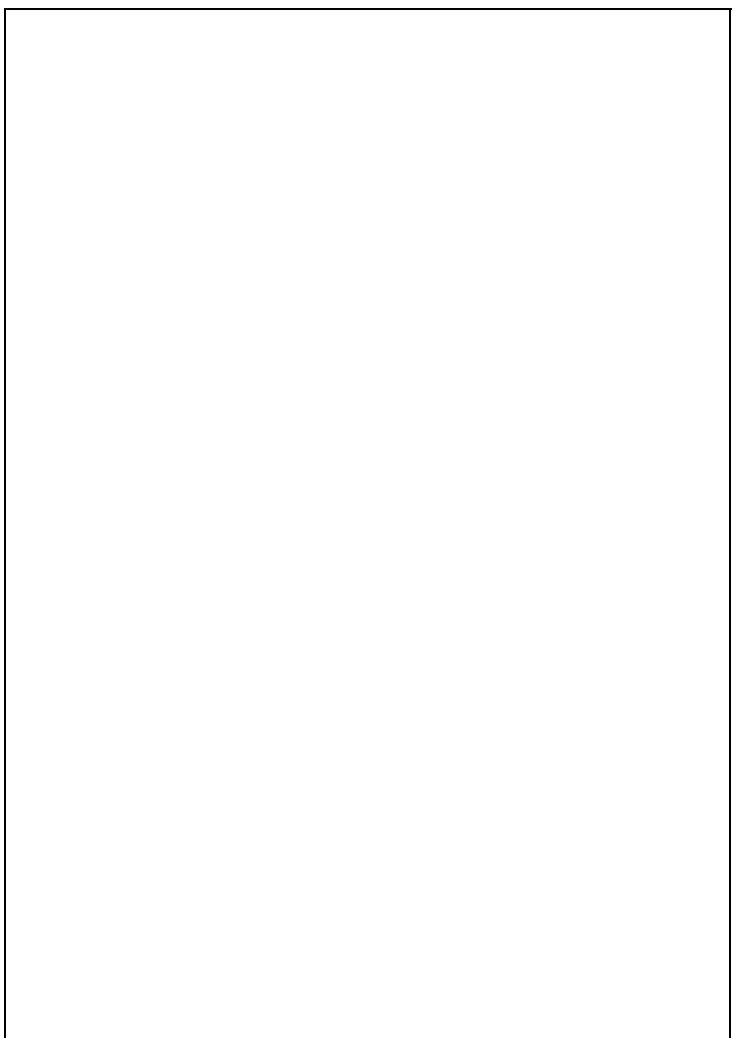
Mark **Volkovitsh** writes:

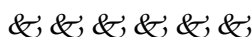
Some comments to Chuck-Roman discussion: Guys, stop absolutely useless discussions and try to avoid personal accusations. There are too much more important things to do.

Together with my colleague Boris KOROTYAEV I spent 3 weeks in NE Turkey in June. We have been visited 8 villages but worked mainly in four of them: Erzurum, Artvin, Kars and Bitlis. We begun our trip from Krasnodar where I and Boris have been working on other projects. It took only 24 hours to reach Erzurum from there using the train (Krasnodar-Sochi), ferry-boat (Sochi-Trabzon) and bus (Trabzon Erzurum). In Erzurum we met our colleagues Goksel TOZLU and Levent GULTEKIN (Curculionidae) who accompanied us to some interesting localities and helped us greatly during all the trip. I was mostly interested to reach Arax valley as I have been collecting a lot in the Armenian and Azerbajdhanian side of this river in the past. In spite of some limitations caused by political problems we got there and I collected many species which have been earlier known only from the opposite side of the boundary. Totally about 65 buprestid species have been collected during the trip.

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The gallery of buprestologist gets longer and longer: Here it shows Rune WIDENFALK, controlling window traps and Domenico GIANASSO, standing in front of *Cedrus* trees.

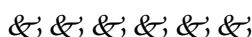




SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BUPRESTID WORKERS - 1998

Here is what I want to say about the proposed "Congress":

The response from our group has been disappointing to say the least. However, two U.S. colleagues confirmed that they would attend this meeting, and two from South Africa seem reasonably sure. Including our host at Chamela, Felipe NOGUERA, and myself, that would make six people. At this point that seems hardly enough, and if no more of our colleagues show an interest, I fear the meeting will not take place, at least not in July, 1998. I write this short update with the hope that a few more of you will respond to me positively and that we can bring this meeting to fruition. Please do not wait too long to contact me, as much advance planning is needed. Refer to the last issue of BUPRESTIS for details.



In the last mailing list I mixed up Göksel TOZLU's e-mail address with Serdar TEZCAN's address. I am very sorry for this mistake and hope you will excuse it. Now, here are the correct e-mail addresses:

Göksel TOZLU: gtozlu@tratauni.bitnet

Serda TEZCAN: Tezcan@ziraat.ege.edu.tr

Addresses of yet unknown authors and address changes:

Prof. G. H. NELSON	Dr. Shelley Barker
1308 NW Hawk Creek	South Australian Museum / Entomology
Blue Springs, MO 64015	North Terrace
U. S. A.	Adelaide, South Australia 5000
	AUSTRALIA

E. PUBLICATIONS

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(1995) Comments on the genus *Agrilus* Curtis, 1825: Where do we go now and do we go together? (Col.:Bup.:Agrilinae). Elytron 9:77-86

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Hattori, T. (1997) Studies on the Buprestidae (Col.) of Asia. 2) Notes on *Pseudhyperantha bloetei* and description of its new relative. Elytra 25:101-108

Hespenheide, H. A. (1996) Chrysomelidae of the subfamily *Clytrinae* as models for mimicry complexes. In: **Jolivet, P. H. A. & M. L. Cox** (eds.). Chrysomelidae Biology, vol.2: Ecological studies, pp.227-239

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& A. L. **Lobanov** (1997) Data bank on the host plants associations of buprestid-beetles of the tribe Acmaeoderini (Coleoptera, Buprestidae) of the Palaearctic. In: **Stepanjants S.D., Lobanov A.L., Dianov M.B.** (Eds.). Data bases and computer graphics in zoological investigations. Proceedings of the Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg, vol. 269: 166-181 (In Russian with English summary).